3:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1938) 1940 MM1 Aden MM1

Fakum, the last two on the Little Aden Peninsula, are situated in this area.

(d) The island of Perim.

Description

The Aden Peninsula is high, rocky and of volcanic formation; Jabel Shamsan, its summit, is 1,725 feet (525 m.) high and there are some turreted peaks close to it. The harbour lies westward and north-west of the peninsula. Crater, the main Arab town, is situated at a distance of five miles from the modern harbour and lies in the crater of the extinct volcano on the east of the peninsula.

The isthmus is a flat sandy plain which is barely ½ mile wide at its narrowest point near the peninsula. Cultivation occurs at Sheikh Othman in the form of a large vegetable and fruit garden belonging to the Aden Settlement, but except during the cold weather months produce is very limited. There are also privately-owned date palms there.

Hiswa has several groves of palms, but with these exceptions there is no regular cultivation in the Colony.

Perim

Perim Island, situated in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandab, is bare, rocky and rather flat in appearance; its highest point, about a mile northward of its southern extremity, is 214 feet (65 m.) high. The surface of the island is grooved with dry water courses and covered with coarse grass and stunted shrubs, the subsoil being sand and conglomerate coral. Perim Harbour and False Bay, a small shoal light, lie on the southern side of the island. Perim was at one time of importance as a coaling station, and the Eastern Telegraph Company and Lloyd's were represented there. There are now no commercial concerns on the island.

Climate

There is a third-class meteorological observatory in Aden under the superintendence of the Medical Officer in charge of the European General Hospital. The minimum day temperature recorded was 69·1 in February, 1938, and the maximum was 101·5 in July, 1938. The rainfall totalled 1·59 centimetres. Hot sandy winds prevailed as usual during the south-west monsoon. There are no crops in Aden, which depends on supplies from other countries, principally India and the interior.

The climate of Aden from October to April, i.e., during the north-east monsoon, is cool and pleasant, especially from November to February. During the south-west monsoon, i.e. in July and August, strong winds prevail which give some relief from the damp airless heat of May, June and September. Sandstorms are apt to occur in the months of May, June, July and August. These come from a northerly direction usually a short time before sunset and are often

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden M M1

	£
Medical	
Improvement to Civil Hospital	2,000
Health	
Dormitory for 50 domestic servants, Tawahi . . .	750
Prison	
Improvement to Prison Buildings	2,300

Mechanical Workshop

A small mechanical workshop is maintained where all motor transport of the Public Health and Public Works Departments are serviced and repaired. Animal-drawn vehicles such as refuse carts, night-soil tumbler carts, etc., are also made and repaired.

Furniture

Owing to the difficulty in obtaining furniture in Aden, the Government instituted a scheme in 1945 whereby expatriate officials could obtain furniture on hire.

This furniture is made partly by the Public Works Department and partly by local contractors, and during 1948 562 pieces of furniture (182 by the Public Works Department) were made and issued.

Building Plans

All deposited building plans submitted by the general public are first checked by the Public Works Department and then passed on to the respective townships for formal approval.

All buildings in course of erection are inspected periodically to ensure that they comply with the regulations in force. Ninety-nine permanent building permits were issued in 1948, compared with 78 in the previous year.

Crown Lands

The Director of Public Works is also Commissioner and Registrar of Lands, and all transfers of immoveable property made during the year were duly registered after the various titles had been carefully scrutinised.

Nineteen parcels of Crown land were also leased during the year to the general public, for various building purposes.

Stores

All work is carried out departmentally by direct labour, and consequently large stocks of building and other stores have to be kept. Deliveries of most goods from the United Kingdom during 1948 were a great improvement on the previous year, and stores to the value of £79,400 were issued to the various works during the year under review.

&Gt. Brit. Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MMI Aden MMI

PART III

Chapter 1 : Geography and Climate

131 361 712 504 THE Colony of Aden is situated in latitude 12° 47′ N. and longitude 45° 10′ E., about 100 miles east of the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb on the southern coast of Arabia. It comprises :

(*a*) The Peninsula on which are situated the main town known as Crater, the modern harbour suburb known as Tawahi, adjacent to which is an area leased by the Township Authority to the Air Ministry for Royal Air Force and military purposes, and known collectively as Steamer Point but more particularly by the name of the spurs of Jebel Shamsan, on which buildings have been constructed, and lastly the Dhow Harbour and village of Maalla.

(*b*) The Isthmus known as Khormaksar.

(*c*) An area of land enclosing the modern harbour and extending north and west to the Little Aden Peninsula. The villages of Sheikh Othman, Hiswa, Imad, Buraikha and Fukum (the last two on the Little Aden Peninsula) are situated in this area.

(*d*) The island of Perim.

133 361 The Aden Peninsula is high, rocky and of volcanic formation ; Jebel Shamsan, its summit, is 1,725 feet high, and there are some turreted peaks close to it. The harbour lies to the westward and north-west of the Peninsula. Dwelling-houses and shops are constructed on the ridges of the mountain and in the valley between them where the ground is normally level. Crater, the main and original town, is situated at a distance of five miles from the modern harbour, and lies in the extinct volcano on the east of the Peninsula.

712 241 The isthmus is a flat, sandy plain on which have been laid out the aerodrome and lines of the Royal Air Force, the Aden Protectorate Levy Lines, the Singapore Lines and the golf course. It is only 1,320 yards wide at its narrowest point near the Peninsula. Cultivation occurs at Sheikh Othman in the form of a large vegetable and fruit-garden belonging to the Township Authority. There are also privately owned date-palms there. [423]

Hiswa has several groves of palms, but with these exceptions there is no regular cultivation in the Colony.

317 Salt is manufactured in large quantities on the flat shores of the bay, by the process of solar evaporation.

133 Perim Island, situated in the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, is bare, rocky and rather flat in appearance ; its highest point, about a mile northward of its southern extremity, is 214 feet high. The surface of the island is grooved with dry water-courses and covered with coarse grass and stunted 504 shrubs, the sub-soil being sand and conglomerate coral. Perim Harbour

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden mm1

Mechanical Workshop

655 496 A vehicle workshop is maintained where all Government motor vehicles are serviced and repaired. Animal drawn vehicles such as refuse carts, night soil carts, etc., are also made and repaired.

655 322 *Furniture*

The Government instituted a scheme to manufacture and repair furniture on hire to officials residing in Government houses. Two thousand two hundred and fifty pounds was spent during 1949 and 1950 on new furniture made in the workshop and obtained from contractors.

653 331 *Building Plans*

Building plans submitted by the general public for approval are checked and then forwarded to the Township Authority for sanction. All buildings in course of erection are inspected at regular intervals to ensure that they comply with regulations. Two hundred and seventy-six permanent building permits were issued during the two years.

Crown Lands

423 427 653 The Director of Public Works, who is also Commissioner and Registrar of Lands, scrutinises various titles submitted to him for transfers of immoveable property. All transfers are registered. One hundred and forty-five plots of land were leased to the public for the erection of residential, commercial and industrial buildings in the period under review.

653 *Stores*

As many new works and all maintenance works are carried out by direct labour, large stocks of building and other stores have to be kept. Stocks valued at £91,200 in 1949 and £78,000 in 1950 were issued from the Central Stores Depot.

464 *Labour*

Some difficulty was experienced in obtaining skilled artisans but plenty of labourers were available. The standard of tradesmen is not high, but it is hoped that the new Technical College will go a long way to raise the standard.

Chapter 11: Communications

ROADS

[496] 491 499 There are no railways in the Colony and the communication between the townships is by road.

The main roads are constructed in bituminous macadam, and the carriage-ways vary in width from 20 feet to about 40 feet. Some secondary roads are similarly constructed. There are about eight miles of streets in the bazaar areas which have not yet been made up.